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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit : 2851

Appl. No. : 10/646,860

Examiner : Arthur A. SMITH

Filed : August 25, 2003

Confirmation No. : 1496

For : OPTICAL ELEMENT RETRACTING MECHANISM FOR A  
PHOTOGRAPHING LENS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
Alexandria , VA 22314

Sir :

Prior to examination of the above-noted application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the present Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims begins on page **2** of this Amendment.

Remarks begin on page **22** of this Amendment.

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